

## **Salem Harbor Task Force – Decommissioning Subcommittee**

Thursday, November 14, 2013

9:00am – 10:00am

EEA (100 Cambridge Street)

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room D

### **Meeting Attendees:**

Chairman John Keenan	Massachusetts House of Representatives, TUE Committee
Senator Michael Rodrigues	Massachusetts Senate, Joint Committee on Revenue
Secretary Sullivan	EEA
Sean Navin	EEA
Dan Burgess	EEA
Gary Davis	EEA
Sandra Merrick	AGO
Bob Ross	AGO
John Beling	AGO
Jesse Reyes	AGO
Lauren Farrell	EEA
Gary Moran	DEP
Joel Wool	Clean Water Action

### **Documents Discussed:**

Agenda

Draft Legislation

*Secretary Sullivan called the meeting to order at 9:23pm*

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Secretary Sullivan welcomed the Subcommittee Members and attendees and began the introductions, noting the new member of the Task Force, Senator Rodrigues. Senator Rodrigues noted he was attending the meeting to listen and learn but read the draft legislation and thought it was a good framework. Secretary Sullivan noted the Task Force submitted its 347 page report focused on redevelopment and remediation in June 2013 and thanked staff for their work on the report. He said the Task Force is cognizant of the Decommissioning Subcommittee's deadline of December 31 to produce a recommendation. He also noted that MassCEC will be providing no less than \$100,000 to Somerset and Holyoke for redevelopment studies and EEA, DOER, and MassCEC have all been in contact with these communities to keep the process moving.

### **Current Status**

Mr. Burgess said that the owners of Brayton Point Station have announced their intention to retire by 2017 and that ISO-NE is currently undergoing its standard 90 day reliability review, targeting mid-December for a Reliability Committee meeting. Mr. Burgess noted that DOER has been working with Somerset officials to ensure they are eligible for \$3 million RGGI funds to offset lost tax revenue once a PILOT is agreed upon. Sen. Rodrigues said the town of Somerset held a meeting and approved the PILOT going forward.

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Mr. Burgess said Montaup was recently purchased for roughly \$4 million by a local developer and plans are currently unknown. Sen. Rodrigues noted that he has spoken with the new owner of Montaup and they are conducting a review for the reuse. Mr. Wool noted that the residents are grateful and are advocating for reuse, contemplating about what those possible uses could be.

Mr. Burgess noted that Mt. Tom has delisted and is expected to go offline by 2016. Secretary Sullivan said the public meeting in Holyoke was well attended and looks forward to working with the Mayor who was recently reelected to another term. Chairman Keenan stated that Salem is a success story and highlighted some of the current developments in his community including a recent bill he filed to deal with some of the permitting issues.

### **Themes for Final Product**

Mr. Davis noted that draft legislation had been handed out and it was intended to serve as an outline and to get things moving. After he read through the draft legislation, he urged everyone to take it back with them and think about how best to proceed as this draft was intended to facilitate dialogue. Mr. Gary noted the short deadline and added this draft is putting the issues on the table to expedite the process.

### **Discussion and Next Steps**

Secretary Sullivan asked if there were any general comments. Mr. Ross asked what actions EFSB would take, particularly on the petition. Mr. Davis responded that the notion of the EFSB is to provide comments, but they have the final say. Mr. Beling noted there are costs associated with taking down buildings, which will add a layer of cost to closing at the sites. Mr. Davis replied that could impose time restraints on remediation actions.

Chairman Keenan noted that when the December 30, 2013 deadline was chosen, it was expected that Mt. Tom would be addressed by then, and suggested pushing the deadline out further. Secretary Sullivan said he felt the deadline should be held for now. Ms. Merrick asked if the financial assurance mechanism could be explained. Mr. Davis noted the mechanism is the DEP hazardous and solid waste mechanisms. Secretary Sullivan asked anyone who had comments on the draft legislation to get them to Mr. Burgess and a fuller draft will be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Burgess noted the next meeting will be scheduled in December and the hope is for ISO-NE to present. He said EEA is working with Sen. Rodrigues and Rep. Keenan to schedule a public meeting in Somerset in the New Year. Lastly, Mr. Burgess noted MassCEC is continuing to follow up with communities for their Redevelopment Study.

Secretary Sullivan asked for any further comments or questions.

*The meeting adjourned at 9:55am.*

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